National women's development corporation

991. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: SHRI KAPIL VERMA: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA;

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision has been taken to form a National Womens' Development Corporation, if so, what will be the equity participation of the Central and State Governments;

(b) what will be the objectives and sphere of activities of the proposed Corporation; and

(c) whether a special scheme will be devised for the upliftment of rural women and how will Government coordinate various welfare schemes for women at present under the Ministry of Welfare?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (c) No decision has been taken to form a Nationa Women's Development Corporation. Women's Development Corporations are being set up in the States and Union Territories under the recently announced Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The Central Government can Invest up to 49 per cent of the equity of each Corporation.

The scope of the new scheme and its objectives are as follows:

1. The Women's Development Corporation envisage taking up projects to generate activities among women such as:

(i) Identification of women entrepreneurs (individuals, cooperatives, associations, etc. etc)

(ii) preparation of a shelf of viable projects and of providing technical consultancy services;

(iii) Facilitating the availability of credit through banks and other financial institutions through the scheme of margin money assistance;

(iv) promotion of marketing through tie-up arrangements with State level marketing organisations;

(v) promotion and strengthening of women's cooperatives and other organisations; and

(vi) arranging training of beneficiaries in concerned trades, project formulation, financial management through existing institutions such as polytechnics and industrial training institutes.

2. The Corporations would aim at covering directly and in association with other organisations women below the poverty line, particularly women belonging to 'Single Woman' category who are heads of households. Attention would be focussed on the weakest sections of the> community* Necessary safeguards would, however, be provided to ensure that the advantages under this scheme are not appropriated by women who are relatively better off or by others by way of benami transactions.

3. The Corporations can take up welfare and development schemes for rural and other women under different Ministries|Departments and would *effeet* coordination.

Relaxation of drug laws to help cancer patients

992. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: SHRIBEKALUTSAHI;

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newspaper report which appeared in the "Hindustan Times" of